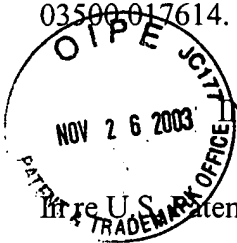


03500-017614.

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re U.S. Patent Application of:

Shinichi SATO, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/673,421

Filed: September 30, 2003

For: AQUEOUS INK, INK JET RECORDING  
METHOD, INK TANK, RECORDING UNIT  
AND INK JET RECORDING APPARATUS

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: Examiner: Unassigned  
)  
: Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
)  
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:  
) November 26, 2003  
:  
)

**Mail Stop Patent Application**

Commissioner For Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. In accordance with the pre-OG Notice dated July 11, 2003, entitled "Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003," only copies of the listed foreign documents are enclosed.

A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English documents may be found in the specification at pages 2, 21 and 22. (Some of the U.S. patents are mentioned at page 22.) Also, Applicants have obtained English language abstracts for the non-English patent

documents and attached them to their respective copies. English language counterparts, if readily available, are also listed on the Form PTO-1449.

#### FORMAL MATTERS

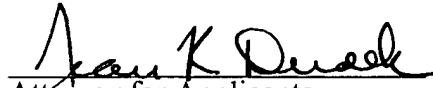
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a certificate, petition nor payment of a fee is believed to be required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

#### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office  
by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our  
address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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